

### Family Friendly Subcommittee

Wednesday, 30 August 2023

**Thursday, 7 September 2023** 0.01 Chamber - Quadrant, The Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park, North Tyneside, NE27 0BY **commencing at 6.00 pm**.

Agenda Page Item

#### Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence.

#### 2. Appointment of Substitute Members

To be notified of the appointment of any Substitute Members.

#### 3. Declarations of Interest

You are invited to declare any registerable and/or non-registerable interests in the matter appearing on the agenda, and the nature of that interest.

You are also invited to disclose any dispensation in relation to any registerable and/or non-registerable interests that have been granted to you in respect of any matters appearing on the agenda.

Please complete the Declarations of Interests card available at the meeting and return it to the Democratic Services Officer

If you need us to do anything differently (reasonable adjustments) to help you access our services, including providing this information in another language or format, please contact democraticsupport@northtyneside.gov.uk.

Agend a Item		Page
	before leaving the meeting.	
4.	Minutes	1 - 6
	To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2023.	
5.	Attendance Strategy	7 - 28
	To consider a presentation in relation to the formulation of an Attendance Strategy.	
6.	Youth Justice Plan	29 - 70
	To discuss the priorities contained in the Youth Justice Plan.	
7.	SEND Performance	71 - 76
	To consider performance information in relation to SEND.	
8.	Work Programme 2023/24	
	To receive a verbal update on the delivery of the 2023/24 work programme for Family Friendly Sub-committee.	

Circulation overleaf ...

#### Members of the Family Friendly Sub-committee

Councillor Sarah Burtenshaw Councillor Sarah Day

Councillor Ian Grayson Councillor Val Jamieson

Councillor Chris Johnston Councillor Josephine Mudzingwa

Councillor Martin Murphy Councillor Rebecca O'Keefe

Councillor Pat Oliver (Deputy Chair) Councillor Erin Parker-Leonard (Chair)

Councillor Bruce Pickard Councillor Judith Wallace

#### **Parent Governor Representatives**

Ms F Burton

#### **Churches Representatives**

Mr S Fallon Rev. M Vine



#### Public Document Pack Agenda Item 4

#### Family Friendly Sub-committee

#### Thursday, 6 July 2023

Present: Councillor E Parker-Leonard (Chair)

Councillors I Grayson, V Jamieson, C Johnston, M Murphy, R O'Keefe, P Oliver, B Pickard and

J Wallace

In attendance:

Miss F Burton – Parent Governor Representative

Rev M Vine - Church Representative

Apologies: Councillors S Burtenshaw and S Day

#### FF1/23 Appointment of Substitute Members

There were no substitutions reported.

#### FF2/23 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations or dispensations reported.

#### FF3/23 Directorate Services and Strategic Priorities for 2023/24

The sub-committee received a presentation from the Director of Children's Services which set out an overview of the Children, Young People and Learning Directorate and the strategic priorities for 2023/24.

Members were informed that the directorate supports a number of families and children through children's social care. 678 families are supported through an Early Help Plan, ensuring that not just the needs of individual children but the whole family are met. Within children's social care there are 1,669 children who are supported as children in need. The directorate also supports over 6000 North Tyneside children and young people that have identified special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). This includes 2,147 children with an Education,

Heath and Care Plan (EHCP) and 4,021 children with a special educational needs support plan.

The presentation set out a number of priorities for the directorate during 2023/24. These include:

- The recruitment and retention of staff to improve timely recruitment to vacancies and to develop the support offer to help drive retention rates.
- Development of Family Hubs to implement a system-wide model providing high-quality, whole family support services which will make a positive difference to parents, carers and their children.
- Care review further understanding of the impact and implementation preparation of the national care review.
- Delivery of the SEND improvement plan delivery of Safety Valve programme to achieve year I forecasted savings and to reach a positive in-year balance of the Dedicated Schools Grant account by the end of 2026-27 and in each subsequent year.
- Refresh of the children and young people plan and partnership priorities.
- Ambition for education complete the education review to address secondary structural deficits and deliver the Working Together to Improve Attendance Guidance.

The sub-committee was made aware of a number of pressures and risks associated with the services provided in the Children, Young People and Learning Directorate. This included a significant increase in demand, complexity and needs of young people and families, driving up caseloads and associated costs. Recruitment and retention also continue to be significant issues across children's social services and SEND. Sufficiency in relation to children in care placements continues to be extremely challenging.

Members were informed of some developments and achievements that had been made in children's social services. This included:

- the registration with Ofsted of Oak and Maple, two new in-house children's homes, both now operational and fully refurbished.
- An extended Early Help offer with family health and wellbeing partners based in GP surgeries.
- The launch of Mocking Bird in the fostering service, with very positive and encouraging early feedback.

Developments and achievement in relation to education, inclusion and skills included:

- The establishment of a working group to develop an Attendance Strategy to address persistent school absence.
- The delivery of Ofsted preparation sessions to schools.
- Work underway on the expansion of Beacon Hill school, which will create an additional 35 places.

Members of the sub-committee asked questions about the service delivered and the priorities for the year ahead. In relation to the Attendance Strategy, members asked who had been involved in the drafting of the strategy. It was noted that representatives from education, health, social care and school support have been involved, along with Headteachers. The consultation had not been wider in terms of involving communities but this was something that could be considered once the strategy is launched, ahead of future refreshes. It was noted that school attendance has declined since the Covid 19 pandemic and that the Attendance Strategy, due to be in place in September 2023, will set out how various partners will work together to improve school attendance.

In relation to residential care homes, it was noted that there were 2 in the local authority area that had been inspected as requires improvement and it was asked what steps had been taken to ensure that improvements were made and sustained. It was explained that 1 of the homes was now rated good and that his had been turned around in 6 months. Work was ongoing to make improvements to the other home; the challenges related to staffing and recruitment.

It was **agreed** to note the information presented.

#### FF4/23 Work Programme 2023/24

The sub-committee received a report which set out a proposed approach to work planning for the Family Friendly Sub-committee for 2023-24, together with an initial information base which the sub-committee could utilise in considering and deciding on its outline work programme for 2023-24.

Members were informed that the Authority's scrutiny arrangements had recently

been evaluated and restructured, following an external review undertaken by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS). The CfGS report was considered by the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

Following consideration of the report the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee proposed that the number and remit of scrutiny committees in North Tyneside should be restructured. A new structure was agreed by Annual Council on 18 May 2023. This was therefore the first meeting of the newly created Family Friendly Sub-committee.

In its review the CfGS made several 'good practice' suggestions around scrutiny work planning. These included:

- A clearer focus on democratic accountability of the Executive
- Involvement of all Committee members in work planning
- Sufficient flexibility
- Senior Officer Support
- 'Less' is more

The Chair of the Family Friendly Sub-committee had sought the views of Committee members, in addition to receiving information from the lead Senior Leadership Team Director and Cabinet members about potential policy areas. The terms of reference for the committee was appended to the report. It was emphasised that it was for the committee to determine its work programme. A list of work programme ideas was appended to the report and the Chair of the committee circulated a proposed work programme based on the dates of future meetings.

The sub-committee discussed a number of areas including:

- The role of the Corporate Parenting Committee, to which all Elected
  Members are invited to serve on. The membership of this was due to be
  refreshed soon. It was suggested that the sub-committee could receive an
  annual update from the Corporate Parenting Committee in relation to
  Looked After Children;
- The development of information dashboards that could be shared with the sub-committee in relation to school attendance, exclusions and looked after children, to allow members to identify trends and any emerging issues;

- School attendance and educational attainment;
- Post pandemic wellbeing

Involvement in the development/refresh of the following plans and strategies was also suggested as a potential area of work for the sub-committee:

- Children and Young People Plan
- Attendance Strategy
- Sufficiency Strategy
- Employment and Skills Strategy
- Ambition for Education Strategy
- Youth Justice Plan
- Regional Pathfinder for Fostering Hubs
- Mental Health Children and Young People

Post pandemic wellbeing and educational attainment was identified as a priority area and it was suggested, via the circulated draft work programme, that this could be the theme for an in-depth investigation. Councillors Oliver, Grayson, Pickard and Wallace and Rev M Vine volunteered to be part of a sub-group to undertake this work. It was acknowledged that some scoping work would need to take place in order to narrow down the subject area and set some objectives for the piece of work.

It was **agreed** to (1) note the information in the report (2) approve the draft work programme as circulated and (3) establish a sub-group in relation to post pandemic social wellbeing and educational attainment.

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**Meeting:** Family Friendly Sub-committee

Date: 7 September 2023

Title: Attendance Strategy

**Author:** Democratic Services

**Service:** Governance

Wards

affected: All

#### 1. Purpose of Report

To introduce a presentation in relation to the formulation of an Attendance Strategy.

#### 2. Details

As part of its work programme setting process, the Family Friendly Subcommittee identified school attendance as an important area to focus on.

The Committee will receive a presentation which will cover an overview of attendance and the key features, core values and roles and responsibilities that will be included in the Attendance Strategy.

Members of the sub-committee will be invited to make comment on the content of the strategy and mechanisms for future monitoring of the impact of the strategy, prior to its referral to Cabinet for consideration.

#### 3. Appendices

Attendance Strategy Update Presentation

Attendance Strategy – Policy Decision Making Template



# Attendance Strategy update Family Friendly sub-committee

August 2023

### What we'll cover

- Context
- Process and identified priorities
- Overview of attendance data
- Attendance Strategy Key features
- Attendance Strategy Core values
  - Attendance Strategy Roles and responsibilities
  - Next steps



### Context

- 1. White Paper March 2022
- 2. Working together to improve school attendance, DfE guidance focusses on managing attendance by:
  - Preventing patterns of absence from developing by promoting good attendance
  - Intervening early by using data to spot patterns of absence before they become persistent and working with families to remove the barriers to attendance
  - Targeting support for persistent and severe absentees with all local partners working together to reengage pupils.
- 3. Attendance in North Tyneside Schools: Increase in EBSNA, term time holidays



## Identify NT Officers

Research

Develop a draft strategy

Regular meetings Collaboration Tasks Create the draft

Draft 1 –
Work with
CYP SMT
Consult with a
small group of HT



### **Identified Priorities**

Absence priorities for North Tyneside identified by working group:

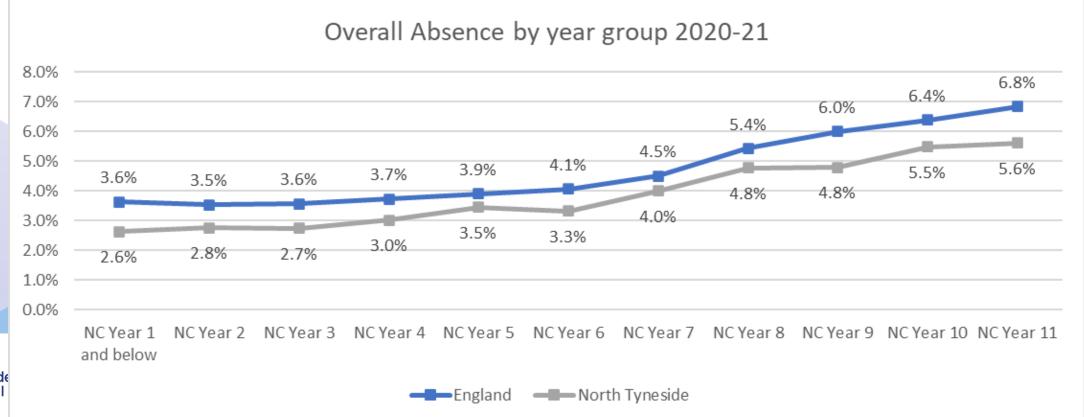
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- Transition, First to Middle primary secondary
- EHE
- EBSNA
- Term time holidays
- Suspension and Exclusion
- Pressure on school placement



### **Overall Absence**

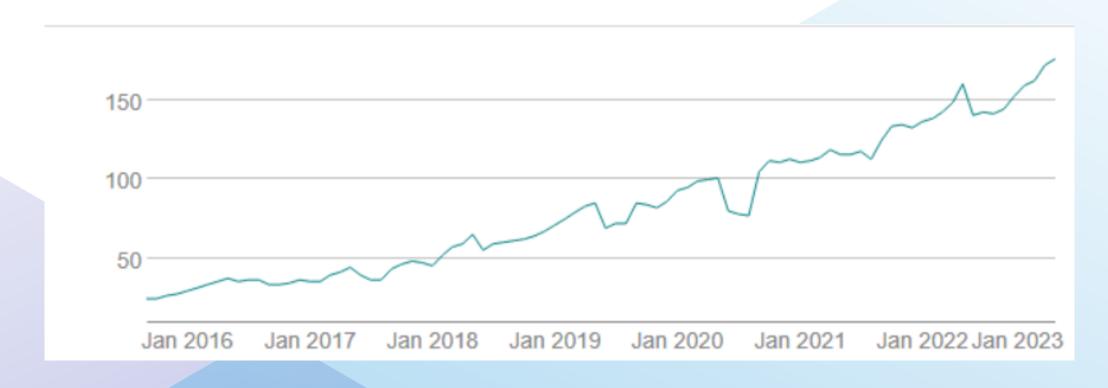
Transition Overall Absence 2020-21	NC Year 1 and below	NC Year 2	NC Year 3	NC Year 4	NC Year 5	NC Year 6	NC Year 7	NC Year 8	NC Year 9	NC Year 10	NC Year 11
England	3.6%	3.5%	3.6%	3.7%	3.9%	4.1%	4.5%	5.4%	6.0%	6.4%	6.8%
North Tyneside	2.6%	2.8%	2.7%	3.0%	3.5%	3.3%	4.0%	4.8%	4.8%	5.5%	5.6%





### EHE – number of EHE pupils by year

The number of EHE pupils in North Tyneside continues to rise steadily. Once seasonal variation is accounted for the EHE cohort increases by about 2 per month.

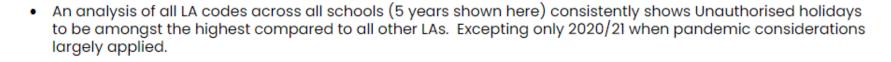




### Term time holidays

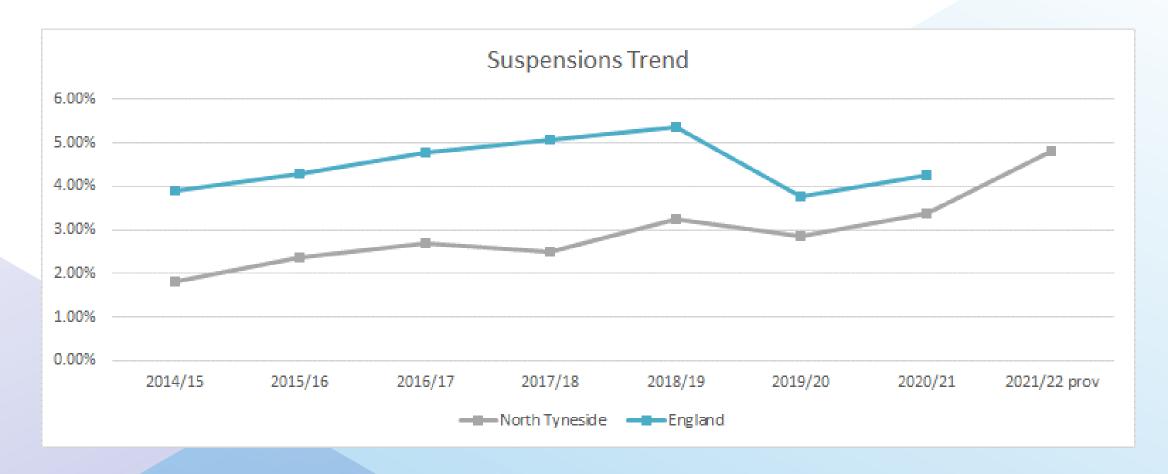
#### ☐ Term time holidays

North Tyneside LA	Half Term	ıs 1-6	est Half Terms 1-6			
All Phases	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	
Overall Absence	4.76%	4.52%	6.12%	3.81%	7.10%	
Authorised Absence	3.32%	3.09%	4.89%	2.88%	5.34%	
Unauthorised Absence	1.44%	1.43%	1.23%	0.93%	1.77%	
Illness code	2.68%	2.48%	2.75%	1.99%	4.60%	
Medical Appointments	0.27%	0.24%	0.21%	0.16%	0.24%	
Religious Observance	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%	
Study Leave	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%	
Traveller Absence	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
Authorised Holidays	0.07%	0.07%	0.00%	0.01%	0.05%	
Excluded codes	0.05%	0.07%	0.07%	0.06%	0.09%	
Authorised "other"	0.24%	0.22%	1.84%	0.63%	0.34%	
Unauthorised Holidays	0.66%	0.65%	0.35%	0.14%	0.54%	
Unauthorised Late (After close of register)	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.04%	
Unauthorised Other	0.66%	0.69%	0.80%	0.73%	1.14%	
Unauthorised "Not yet known"	0.10%	0.06%	0.05%	0.05%	0.04%	
Persistent Absence	10.62%	9.92%	19.13%	9.29%	20.53%	
Severe Persistent Absence	0.58%	0.54%	0.69%	0.77%	1.19%	
All Absences inc X			19.72%	21.20%	7.70%	
Colour Code	Top Quintile	2nd Quintile	3rd Quintile	4th Quintile	Bottom	



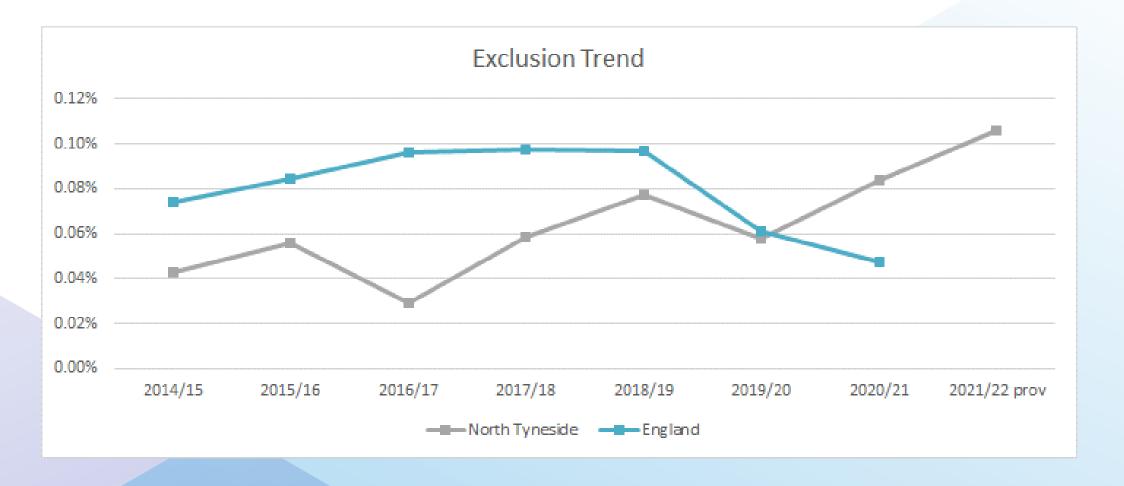


### **School Suspensions**





### **School Exclusions**





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To deliver our vision of "Making North Tyneside an even greater place for children and young people to thrive; where all can access a high-class education with a culture of inclusion and achievement", we need children and young people to engage with the learning process.

Attend today, achieve tomorrow. Missing school? Missing out.



Attendance is everyone's business



Clarity of roles and responsibilities



Effective school attendance improvement and management



Communication plan



Action plan



Links related policies





### Attendance Strategy - Core Values

- Attendance is everyone's business
- A **strengths based whole family approach** which will draw on the Signs of Safety Framework to support consistency across services and settings
- A caring and family friendly approach which is ambitious for families to thrive and feel secure
- Inclusion is at the heart of everything we do
- A culture of belonging is central to success
- Collaborative multi-disciplinary working focused on improving attendance and minimising the number of children missing education
- Supporting our families to remove out of school barriers
- A clear vision, informed by rigorous data analysis, to inform our priorities
- Children are safer in education
- The Family Network, work together to achieve full attendance
- Every child is in education every day
- Supports are in place to remove barriers to attendance
- Roles and responsibilities are clear in terms of delivering the strategy



### Effective school governance

**PREVENTION** of poor attendance through good whole school attendance management

**EARLY INTERVENTION to** reduce absence before it becomes habitual

TARGETED reengagement of persistent and severely absent pupils

**ALL PUPILS** Developing good attendance patterns through effective whold school approach to attendance (including leadership, ethos and systems and processes)

**PUPILS WITH POOR ATTENDANCE** Intervening as early as possible and agreeing an action plan for pupils with high levels of absence and those demonstrating growing disengagment with school

PERSISTENT AND SEVERELY ABSENT **PUPILS** Put additional targeted support in place, where necessary working with partners, and agree a joint approach with local authorities for all severely absent pupils

#### **PUPILS AT RISK OF POOR**

**ATTENDANCE** Using attendance and absence data rigourously to support pupils with increasing levels of absence, arriving at school late or taking leave in term time without permission before it becomes a regular pattern



### Attendance Strategy Roles and responsibilities

#### **Local Authority**

- Will fulfil their statutory responsibility (section 19 of the Education Act)
- Has responsibility to ensure that parents fulfil their legal responsibility to send their child to school
- \*\*Strategic use of cattendance data

  \*A clear communication

  \*\*Pramework
- With Schools, work alongside the Locality model
- Communication with partners
- School attendance support team
- Legal intervention

#### **Schools**

Schools have a responsibility to:

- Safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
   This is a statutory duty under section 175 of the Education Act 2002 to
- Use National absence codes published in September 2006
- Have a whole school attendance policy

#### All Trustees and Governors

- Take an active role in attendance improvement
- Set high expectations of the school's leadership
- Ensure high aspirations are maintained for all pupils but that processes
- Ensure school staff receive training on attendance
- For schools struggling with attendance, work with the leadership to agree a comprehensive attendance action plan
- Understand the Prevention and Early Help offer for their Locality

#### Parents

Parents /carers are responsible for making sure that:

- their children of compulsory school age receive efficient fulltime education that is suitable to the child's age, ability and aptitude, and to any special educational needs the child may have
- Should engage with professional networks when barriers to attendance arise

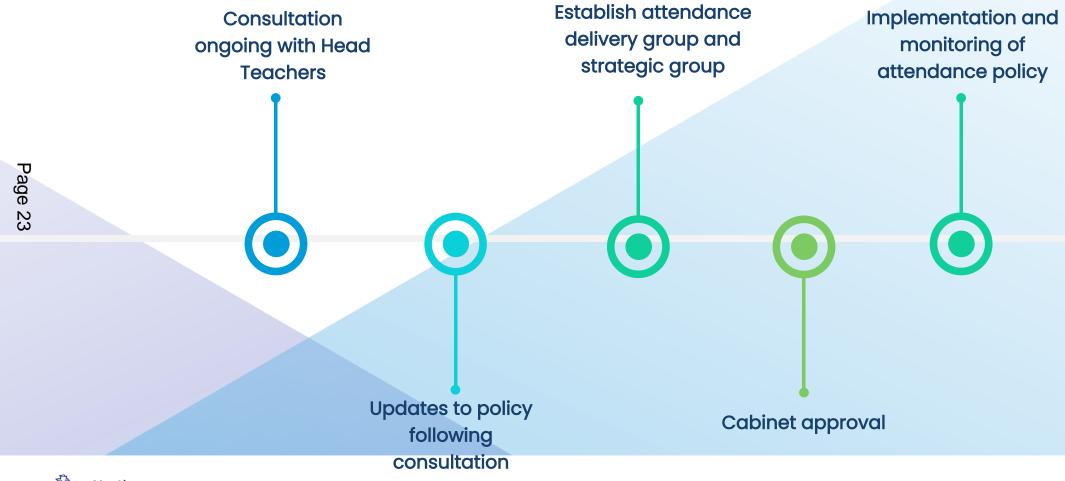
#### Pupils

- Should attend and stay in school
- Should have a strong voice in the process to improve attendance



### Key next steps....

Key activities planned include...





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#### Family Friendly Sub-Committee

Framework to support contribution to policy decision making

When scrutinising and contributing to the decision making process by examining key policy issues and making reports and recommendations members of the committee should consider the following framework questions.

- Are we family friendly?
- Have we listened?
- Have we cared?
- Is it inclusive?
- Is it value for money?
- How does this link to policy?
- How has Cabinet policy direction been incorporated?

#### Framework template

Policy Name	Attendance Strategy		
Policy version/date	September 2023		
Policy author	Lisa Cook		
	•		

#### Key updates, including reasons

On 6 May 2022, the Department for Education released new non-statutory guidance (which is likely to become statutory no sooner than September 2023). "Working together to improve school attendance" will help schools, trusts, governing bodies, and local authorities maintain high levels of school attendance and improve consistency of support.

To do this, the guidance focusses on managing attendance by:

- Preventing patterns of absence from developing by promoting good attendance
- Intervening early by using data to spot patterns of absence before they become persistent and working with families to remove the barriers to attendance
- Targeting support for persistent and severe absentees with all local partners working together to reengage pupils.

To deliver our vision of "Making North Tyneside an even greater place for children and young people to thrive; where all can access a high-class education with a culture of inclusion and achievement", we need children and young people to engage with the learning process. This requires excellent attendance.

The Attendance Strategy sets out how North Tyneside will deliver this ambition, including roles and responsibilities. Attend today, achieve tomorrow. Missing school? Missing out.

Effective school attendance improvement and management - Prevention of poor attendance through good whole attendance management. Early intervention to reduce absence before it comes habitual. Targeted re-engagement of persistent and severely absent pupils.

#### Are we family friendly?

The Attendance Strategy has the following core values which demonstrate how we are family friendly:

- A strengths based whole family approach which will draw on the Signs of Safety
   Framework to support consistency across services and settings
- A caring and family friendly approach which is ambitious for families to thrive and feel secure
- Supporting our families to remove out of school barriers

#### Have we listened?

To develop and shape the Attendance Strategy we are working with colleagues across the Local Authority and Northumbria Health Care Trust. We have also consulted with and had support from the Department for Education.

Comments and feedback have been provided by Headteachers following a Headteacher collaboration meeting, a group of Headteachers are feeding back with comments on the draft and young people are being consulted via the Youth Forum

#### Have we cared?

Attendance is everyone's business and is at the heart of keeping our children and young people safe and able to access education. The strategy sets out a caring and family friendly approach which is ambitious for families to thrive and feel secure. The impact of non attendance on our community can be significant and we have a protective duty of care to consider and how we positively engage children and young people in playing a positive role in their community

The strategy clearly defines the role of LA, Schools, Parents/ Carers and young people in attendance.

#### Is it inclusive?

The Attendance Strategy supports all children. One of the core values is Inclusion is at the heart of everything we do. Our vision is Making North Tyneside an even greater place for children and young people to thrive; where all can access a high-class education with a culture of inclusion and achievement.

#### Is it value for money?

The attendance approach in North Tyneside has positively impacted on overall absence. There has been a lower than national absence rate for every school phase, for over ten years. North Tyneside is also consistently in the top quartile of regional absence over the same period, giving us good foundations on which to build.

We have an established School Attendance Support team to fulfil statutory obligations. Each school will have a named officer to support with queries and advice. The named officer will build positive relationships with each school, including with the Attendance Champion on the school's Leadership Team. The team will work with schools to build effective data sharing opportunities with different partners as part of the overall data sharing and governance arrangements in the local partnership to ensure a joined-up approach and work closely with local mental health services, school level senior mental health leads, the local School Nursing Service, the Local Authority's special educational needs and disabilities team(s), and Connect Mental Health Support Team. The statutory guidance has not yet been passed through parliament, this strategy includes the increased duties for the Local Authority. The Local Authority will be required to deliver the extra duties with no additional funding from Central Government.

#### How does this link to policy?

Our North Tyneside Plan and Children and Young People's Plan set out the vision for North Tyneside. The North Tyneside Ambition for Education gives us a clear purpose and delivers on these plans.

"Making North Tyneside an even greater place for children and young people to thrive; where all can access a high-class education with a culture of inclusion and achievement."

How has Cabinet policy direction been incorporated?

Additional committee questions/feedback



**Meeting:** Family Friendly Sub-committee

Date: 7 September 2023

Title: Youth Justice Plan

**Author:** Democratic Services

**Service**: Governance

Wards

affected: All

#### 1. Purpose of Report

To introduce the North Tyneside Youth Justice Plan.

#### 2. Details

The Youth Justice Service sits within the wider Children, Young People and Learning directorate within the local authority.

The Director, Children's Services provides strategic leadership and chairs the Youth Justice Management Board.

The priorities in the Youth Justice Plan have been developed based on what our performance data and analysis tells us, what our partners tell us about their priorities but most importantly what young people, families, victims and communities tell us matters to them.

The sub-committee will be invited to discuss the priorities in the plan and how these reflect what members know from their communities.

#### 3. Appendices

Youth Justice Plan – Policy Decision Making Template

Youth Justice Plan – Summary

Youth Justice Plan 2023-24

#### Family Friendly Sub-Committee

Framework to support contribution to policy decision making

When scrutinising and contributing to the decision making process by examining key policy issues and making reports and recommendations members of the committee should consider the following framework questions.

- Are we family friendly?
- Have we listened?
- Have we cared?
- Is it inclusive?
- Is it value for money?
- How does this link to policy?
- How has Cabinet policy direction been incorporated?

#### Framework template

Policy Name	North Tyneside Youth Justice Plan			
Policy version/date	2023 to 2024			
Policy author	Pete Xeros			

#### Key updates, including reasons

Local authorities have a statutory duty to submit an annual youth justice plan relating to their provision of youth justice services (yjs).

Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the youth justice partnership's responsibilities in producing a plan. It states that it is the duty of each local authority, after consultation with the partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan, setting out how youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded, how they will operate, and what functions will be carried out.

The plan should equally address the functions assigned to a youth justice service, including how services will prevent offending behaviour and reduce reoffending.

#### Are we family friendly?

The services delivered by the YJS take a holistic approach and include the child and parent throughout the process regardless of what length of time the child is under the supervision of the service and is living at home in the community or subject to a custodial sentence. Both are included in all review meetings and the plans are written in a manner that are child friendly. All victims of crime where identified are consulted and offered a restorative justice intervention. This ensures the impact of the offence is incorporated into any work done and restorative justice gives the victim the option of requesting indirect/direct community payback, a letter of apology or where appropriate, a direct face to face meeting with the child.

#### Have we listened?

The YJS undertakes a comprehensive assessment on every child. A big part of this is the views of the child and parent which is captured by a self-assessment they are offered the opportunity to complete. This ensures the voice of the child/parent is evident within all assessments. The YJS is required to report on all victims consulted and the type of restorative justice offered and delivered. This includes feedback as to their satisfaction with the service offered.

#### Have we cared?

The YJS is a child first service which recognises that children are firstly children and secondly a child that has offended. The YJS takes a trauma informed approach to the work undertaken with children and families which is a reflection of the disproportionate neuro diversity needs of children within the YJS cohort.

The YJS also has a key focus on victims of crime ensuring they are considered in any work undertaken including how to ensure victims are not re victimised.

#### Is it inclusive?

The YJS analyses all characteristics of the children worked with to ensure we are sighted on and ethic disproportionality and children overrepresented.

The YJS is provided a tool kit from the Youth Justice Board which enables an assessment of ethnic disproportionality which for North Tyneside shows the ethnic composition of children in the youth justice system is reflective of that of all North Tyneside residents.

The YJS does have a higher rate of children with SEND that that of the general population and this is also reflected nationally. In respect of this the YJS work is supported by a speech and language therapist and clinical psychologist. The YJS works closely with the SEND team and the SEND AD, is part of the statutory Youth Justice Service management board.

#### Is it value for money?

The YJS is a small service reflective of the population of the borough who's annual pooled budget is within the bottom 10% of Youth Justice Services Nationally.

The YJS was inspected in 2021 and was rated as outstanding. In addition, performance is better than regional performance and better than national performance.

#### How does this link to policy?

The Youth Justice Plan is aligned to out North Tyneside Plan, with a focus on "A family friendly and A Caring North Tyneside. The YJS plan and objectives are also identified and aligned to the overall objectives of the Community Safety Partnership draft plan (2023 – 2024)

How has Cabinet policy direction been incorporated?

#### Additional committee questions/feedback









# North Tyneside Youth Justice Plan 2023 - 2024

## WHAT ARE WE PROUD OF?

The YJS takes a child first approach.

In 2021 North Tyneside YJS was rated as Outstanding by HMIP.

"The work of the YJS is overseen by well-informed and committed Board members who strongly champion the work with children".

"The Chair of the Board provides purposeful leadership of the YJS".

"The operational team is a dedicated, skilful, knowledgeable and experienced group".

"A trauma-informed approach to the work with children is fully supported by resources within the partnership arrangement".

The YJS has a Reoffending rate of 32% for the 2022/23 period. In line with family averages

Only 16 children became a First Time entrants, better than both the family average and national average.

No children were made subject to a custodial sentence in the 2022/23 period.

An established regional prevention pathway supports better children from overrepresented groups.

## WHAT ARE WE WORRIED ABOUT?

There is a high percentage of Children with SEND and an EHCP (60%)

The single most offence committed in North Tyneside is one of violence.

Children not attending 25 hours Education.

The number of children that have been a victim of crime.

The increase in technology assisted offending.

The regional Out of Court arrangements have not been reviewed by the partnership for 2 years.

Children subject to a custodial sentence has increased.

The age of Children entering the youth justice system has decreased from average of 15 years to 13 years.

## WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN?

#### Out of Court Process.

Embed the Prevention Service (Turnaround and Divert) into the out of court process.

Dovetail the Prevention Service into the wider Early Help offer.

Evaluation and Review of the impact of the Out of Court Diversion Process, alongside Regional Partners.

#### Informed approach to Serious Youth Violence.

To produce with partners a local Serious Youth Violence Strategy.

Represent the 6 Northumbria YJS's on the Violence Reduction Unit, Serious Violence delivery group.

#### Improve access to Health and Wellbeing.

Produce a Health and Wellbeing Strategy to ensure there is an integrated health response for all children.

#### Develop specific services for young victims of crime.

We will undertake a full review of the practice relating to the young victims following a specific report commissioned on the nature of violent offending. This report identified a higher rate of young victims against adult victims.

## Support young people with additional Needs / Education. Training and Employment.

Challenge exclusionary barriers.

Support parents to advocate for best fit provision.

All children screened re SALT and offered assessment where necessary.









# North Tyneside Youth Justice Plan 2023 - 2024

Service	ice North Tyneside	
Service Manager	Pete Xeros	
Chair of YJS Board	Julie Firth - Director Children's Services	

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## Introduction, vision and strategy

The priorities for the year ahead have been developed based on what our performance data and analysis tells us, what our partners tell us about their priorities but most importantly what young people, families, victims and communities tell us matters to them. We are a learning service and will continue to strive to learn and develop, not only looking internally but also regionally and nationally for the very best practice that this having a positive impact.

In North Tyneside we are passionate about prevention and our Youth Justice Service plays a key part in this this crucial work. We want to continue to build on the success of our Out of Court processes, which have achieved a significant reduction in the number First Time entrants to the criminal justice system over the last four years. We will do this by embedding both our Divert and Turnaround programmes into our out of Court work and by merging this into our wider Early Help offer.

As a management board and wider partnership we recognise that youth violence is a strong area of focus for us, within a context of low offending and re-offending rates. Linked to this we also recognise that young people are disproportionately the victims of violence and we are keen, from a safeguarding perspective to work together as a partnership to reduce both incidents and the number of young people who are victims. Two of our key priorities for the year ahead address these worries. A further two priorities are around how we further build on the protective factors of Education, Employment and Training and the Health and wellbeing of young people with additional needs.

As a management board we want to express our thanks to the service for their continued drive, energy and commitment and we look forward to supporting, challenging and helping them to deliver against the priorities in this plan.

Julie Firth, Director Children's Services

#### Overview

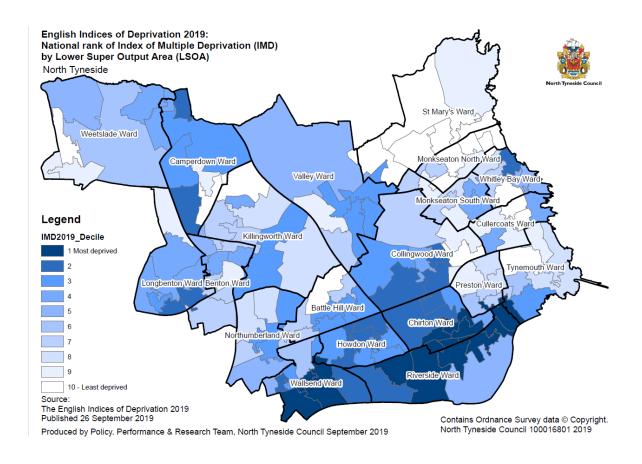
North Tyneside has a population of 209,151 and the population is projected to grow by 5% overall by 2030. The proportion residents of over the age of 65 is projected to increase by over 20%, over 75's by over 30%, and over 85's by 15% and fewer children.

Working Age Groups	Female	Male	Total
			Population
0-15 (Children)	17,982	19,353	37,335
16-64 (Working Age Population)	66,027	62,576	128,603
65+ (Retired)	23,699	19,514	43,213

North Tyneside has a relatively small black, Asian and other ethnic minority community population, which accounts for 5.2% of the overall population.

## Key socio-demographic issues

North Tyneside is one of the least deprived areas in the North-East and deprivation has reduced compared to the rest of England, however some areas of the borough particularly in Wallsend, Riverside and Chirton Wards continue to experience persistently relatively high levels of deprivation. Just over 20% of these areas in North Tyneside are ranked as being in the most deprived 20% in England. These areas of deprivation are linked to fewer years of living in good health, lower life expectancy, lower participation and attainment in education post 16 years old.



The 0-18 population in North Tyneside is 43,914, of which the 10-17 population is 19,018.

Through the revision of the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Plan, 4 key areas were identified for the period 2023/24. These were identified following a comprehensive needs assessment which incorporated information specifically for the 10-17 YJS cohort. The offending data for North Tyneside identifies violent crime at 50% of all offences committed but this includes all adult data. This reflects the current primary offence type within the YJ cohort. However, it is only when these offences are analysed that a true picture emerges. This is addressed later.

#### **About the Youth Justice Service**

The Youth Justice Service sits within the wider Children, Young People and Learning directorate within the local authority.

The Director, Children's Services provides strategic leadership and chairs the Youth Justice Management Board.

The Youth Justice Management Board oversees the development and operations of the service, with strong representation from all key partners. The YJ Board provides effective oversight of delivery of the Strategic Plan, and challenge, support and scrutiny regarding performance and quality.

North Tyneside Youth Justice Service is a relatively small multi-agency team, which comprises a manager, two team leaders, seven case workers, probation officer, a restorative justice worker, clinical psychologist, speech and language therapist, police constables, connexions advisor, and performance advisor.

## Our Partnership Vision and Priorities

The Children and Young People's Partnership has a shared vision and passion, which is to:

"Make North Tyneside an even greater place for children and young people to thrive; where all, including those who are vulnerable, disadvantaged, or disabled, have the best start in life"

Our outcomes framework for Children's services focuses all of our activity from a child and young person's perspective, with the objective that they are able to say:

- I am Safe
- I am Healthy
- I have Opportunities
- I have a Voice
- I am Happy

The Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2023-24 sets out 5 key strategic priorities. They are:

- 1. All children will have access to appropriate health and wellbeing services at the right time
- 2. Develop and deliver a Serious youth violence strategy and plan
- 3. Further development of prevention into the pathway for children on the edge/cusp of the YJS
- 4. Every young person will have access to appropriate ETE that meets their needs
- 5. A comprehensive and consistent service will be available to all victims

#### **Child First**

In line with the Youth Justice Boards Strategic Plan 2021-24 North Tyneside's Youth Justice Service (YJS) is committed to:

- See children first, offenders second and champion the needs of children throughout our work.
- Listening to children and their families/carers.
- Ensure that the services and interventions that are provided are inclusive, through challenging discrimination and promoting equality.
- Ensuring that children are offered every opportunity to achieve their potential and make positive changes.
- Building positive and trusted and strength-based relationships with children.

The YJS has embedded into practice a child first approach which ensures all interactions and interventions reflect the individual needs of the child and builds upon strengths.

The YJS invested in a Trauma informed approach in 2019 via both a comprehensive training programme and the appointment of a Clinical Psychologist. This position was initially via a secondment agreement with CAMHS but in May 2022 this position was made permanent directly within the YJS and is now an embedded offer.

The Out of court procedures implemented in November 2019 supported the child first approach reflected in a multi-agency decision making panel following the assessment being completed. This process ensures that the decision is made using all agency information and is heavily focused on building upon desistance factors. The impact has seen a continued on the rate of first-time entrants, level of positive engagement (98%) and the rate of reoffending within the out of court cohort.

All of the YJS documentation, leaflets and information given to parents, carers and children have been produced in collaboration with the speech language therapist.

#### Voice of the child

The YJS has worked consistently to ensure the voice of the child is reflected in all of the work undertaken.

In 2022 the self-assessment was amended with input from children to make them more child friendly with the aim of increasing the completion rate but also ensuring the voice of the child was clear. The changes have resulted in a high completion rate which is copied directly into the out of court assessments and reflected within the final agreed plan.

We continue to work with the Childrens participation team in North Tyneside who have identified young people in the youth justice system as a key group and as such have just appointed a new worker who will have the YJS as a key responsibility. Where appropriate we negotiate an advocate via the participation team.

The service invites all children (and parents) regardless of the length of time involved with the YJS an option to complete a survey monkey at the end of involvement. This process produces collated information relating to the individual questions and gives an overall rating for the child experience. This information is discussed monthly within the managers meeting and quotes received are shared with workers using a "Board of positivity" which is in the main office full of quotes. The gathered information is presented to the Management Board on a biannual basis.

The questions we ask the children and young people are:

- Do you understand why you were working with the Youth Justice Service?
- Do you think you had a say in your plan and what you were asked to do?
- Do you think your worker and the staff at the YJS listened to you and took you seriously?
- Do you think the work we did with you included things that are important to you?
- What do you think worked well?
- What do you think we could do better?
- On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 being very poor and 10 being excellent), what would you score your experience with YJS?

Why did you choose that number?

We also ask the following to the parents/carers:

- Do you understand why your child was working with the YJS?
- Do you think the work included things that are/were important to you and your child?
- Do you think you were listened to and supported?
- What do you think worked well?
- What do you think we could do better?
- On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 being very poor and 10 being excellent), what would you score your experience with YJS?
- Why did you choose that number?

In North Tyneside there is a strong participation team which promotes the voice of all children across the borough with a specific focus of children in our care and children with additional needs. There is a dedicated workers that works with the YJS to ensure the children within the service are represented as a specific group.

North Tyneside has just launched "Year of the voice of the child" which is being overseen by the Participation team.

The plan is to facilitate a year of promotion and activities around the voice of the child. This will include all the work that is currently done as standard across the authority, but also to increase opportunities, value and understanding of children's and young people's voices across all services, partners including schools and the VCSE community.

There activity over the year is clearly focused on gaining understanding of children's experiences across as many services as possible and has the following key activities:

- Youth Democracy refresh
- Annual Conversations
- SEND Participation
- Children's voice in play
- Celebration events and conferences

#### Staff training

## Governance, leadership and partnership arrangements

North Tyneside had benefitted from a strong appropriately senior YJ Board membership for a three-year period. This enabled evidence against the roles and responsibilities of the board in respect of both the Modern YJ Partnership and revised Youth Justice Service governance and leadership.

The management board is directly responsible for:

- Determining how appropriate youth justice services are to be provided and funded;
- Overseeing the formulation each year of the youth justice plan;
- Agreeing measurable objectives linked to key performance indicators as part of the youth justice plan;
- Ensuring delivery of the statutory aim to prevent offending by children and young people;
- Giving strategic direction to Youth Justice Service Manager and Youth Justice Service Team;
- Providing performance management of the prevention of youth crime and periodically report this to the Safer North Tyneside Partnership;
- Ensuring that Standards for children in the Youth Justice System and the Child First ethos are embedded across the whole service and audits are completed within required timescales;
- Promoting the key role played by the Youth Justice Service within local integrated offender management arrangements;
- Advocate on behalf of the YJS within their own service areas and beyond, specifically supporting the YJS to overcome barriers to effective Multi-Agency working;
- Oversight of all data submissions to the YJB ensuring timeliness, especially conditions set out in the YJB grant;
- Ensuring the recommendations outlined in HMIP inspection reports/thematic are addressed and monitored at board meetings

To aid this, the board has a clear set out Terms of Reference.

## **Board Development**

The board receives comprehensive performance reports, exception reports as well as presentations from staff and partners to enable an understanding of not only the positive outcomes for children but where the challenges and blocks are.

The service undertakes an annual development day which focuses on looking froward and planning priorities for the forthcoming year. This includes the staff team to aid a complete and joined up understanding of the services vison.

Through partnership development days, we have reviewed our progress, understood the lived experience of young people, assessed our performance against key indicators and National Standards. As a result, we have developed the following, emerging priorities.

- A Out of Court Process development to include a prevention programme
- B Develop specific services for young victims of crime
- C Support young people with additional Needs / Education. Training and Employment
- D Informed approach to Serious Youth Violence
- E Improve access to Health and Wellbeing

The management board comprises of the statutory partners, Police, Local Authority, Health and Probation, and in addition has representation from the lead Cabinet Member, Department of Work and Pensions, Headteacher, Violence Reduction Unit, Employment and Skills.

For all new board members there is a comprehensive induction process which is delivered by the head of service.

#### Resources and services

The 2023/2024 terms and conditions of the Youth Justice require assurance that they will be used exclusively for the delivery of youth justice services. The grant is exclusively used to deliver against the core objectives of the Youth Justice system.

At the point of writing this plan, there has yet to be a conclusion to the YJB grant allocation. Whilst difficult to effectively plan forwardly, reassurance has been given that there will be no change to the 2022/23 allocation.

The ring-fenced funding via the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) to provide a targeted prevention programme, has been extremely welcomed which has enable the service to expand its delivery to those children on the cusp of entering the Youth Justice system. This funding is a testament to the successes of the Youth Justice Services and ability to effectively work with the ever increasingly complex children involved in antisocial behaviour/offending/exploitation. In addition, the Office of the Crime and Police Crime Commissioner also supports the prevention work undertaken which compliments the MOJ target group.

North Tyneside YJS will comply with National Standards, data reporting and providing mandatory documents for the placement of young people in the secure estate. This will include maintaining and updating a case management system as required with the youth justice system through Connectivity. AssetPlus is the assessment and planning framework used by North Tyneside YJS where required.

In absence of a grant settlement for 2023 to 2024, the below reflects the YJS budget for the period 2022 to 2023 but has updated information regarding funding via the Ministry of Justice and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The staffing of the service is compliant with the minimum staffing requirements set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and is attached in the appendix 2.

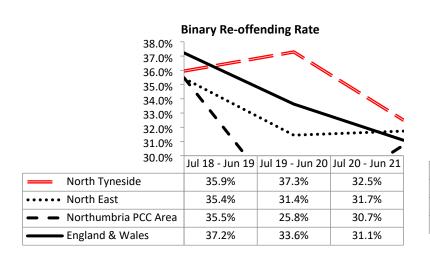
## National Key Performance Indicators

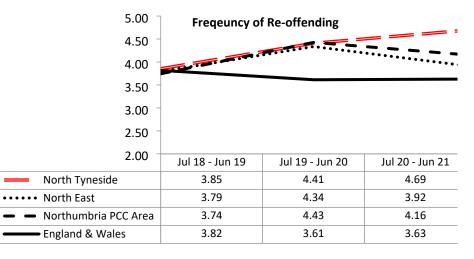
North Tyneside Youth Justice Service reports comprehensive performance information on a quarterly basis to our Management Board and partners, which is presented at Board meetings and to the staff team. Alongside the three key indicators we report on a range of information which evolves with the priorities of the service. We also produce thematic reports where the data indicates further information is required, and at the request of the Management Board.

#### Re-offending Data – Ministry of Justice

Binary Re-offending Rate: The below graphs show the most recently published Ministry of Justice binary re-offending rate which is 32.5% based on the 12-month weighted yearly cohort for the period July 2020 to June 2021. In terms of regional / national and family comparisons, our numbers are slightly worse for this published period.

Frequency of Re-offending Rate: Our frequency rate is higher than the regional, national and Northumbria comparisons, with a frequency rate of 4.69 (meaning each young person who has re-offended has committed an average of 4.69 offences).





Whilst this is the official data, this no longer represents our cohort. Only approximately 15 to 20% of our caseload now receive statutory/substantive outcome and are counted in this outdated indicator. These are also the most complex of cases who are most likely to re-offend and more prolifically.

#### Live Tracker Data - 2021/22 Cohort

To properly track our re-offending, representing our entire caseload (i.e. those with non-substantive out of court disposals who form 80 – 85% of our current cohort) we have a live tracker. We have just concluded the tracking of the April 2021 to March 2022 cohort and have achieved a binary re-offending rate of 23.5%, with 41 out of the 174 young people having committed a further offence and a frequency rate of 2.6 offences per re-offender.

Only 14 of the 41 have received a substantive outcome, most re-offences were dealt with by an additional out of court disposal.

#### First Time entrants

In the April 2022 to March 2023 period we had a total of 16 first time entrants in the youth justice service (local data). This is a slight reduction in comparison to 21/22 when we had 20 first time entrants. North Tyneside's FTE rate has been very low for a few years now. The introduction of out of court panels in 2019 has enabled the diversion of young people to a non-substantive out of court disposal and intervention, and our low rate of re-offending as shown from the live tracker above, shows this to be successfully diverting the majority of young people out of the criminal justice system. The below chart shows the most recent YJB data taken from the Police National Computer (PNC). Our rate at the time of publishing was lower than Regional and National rates.

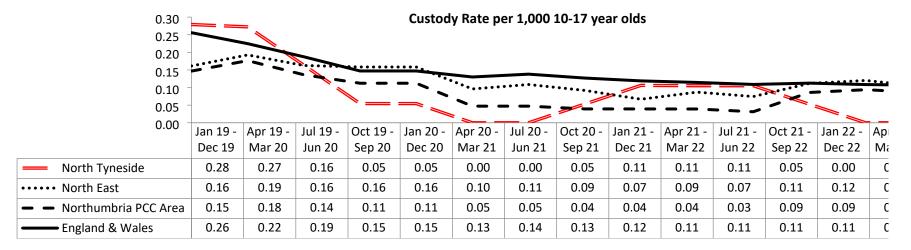
400 300 200 100 Jan 19 -Apr 19 -Jul 19 -Oct 19 -Jan 20 -Apr 20 -Jul 20 -Oct 20 -Jan 21 -Apr 21 -Jul 21 -Oct Jun 22 Dec 19 Mar 20 Jun 20 Sep 20 Dec 20 Mar 21 Jun 21 Sep 21 Dec 21 Mar 22 Sep 233 157 79 64 57 0 74 120 127 9 North Tyneside 111 133 267 242 192 163 147 134 156 143 137 138 140 1! North East 217 1. Northumbria PCC Area 340 307 154 116 92 122 110 108 116 123 England & Wales 1، 207 203 176 170 167 157 167 154 145 141 142

Rate of FTEs per 100,000 10-17 year olds - Jan 22 - Dec 22

#### Use of custody

We continue to have a very low rate of the use of custody within North Tyneside, with **0** custodial sentences in the 22/23 period. Wherever possible, robust community interventions are offered as an alternative to custody for young people.

In the previous annual period there were 2 sentences. Our custodial rate is currently better than the National and Regional averages. The below graph shows the custody rate per 1,000 10 – 17 year olds. Our current rate is 0.00. We aim to keep the use of custody as low as possible.



#### Additional key performance indicators (from April 2023)

#### • Suitable accommodation

We have not previously reported on suitable accommodation to our Management Board but welcome this indicator. We know that the numbers of young people placed in unsuitable accommodation in recent years has been very low.

• Education, training and employment (ETE)

We currently report to our Management Board on the numbers of young people in each quarterly report who are in ETE which is broken down by type. In recent years we have seen an increase in young people placed in Pupil Referral Units, something we monitor closely and has been on average 40% of each quarterly cohort. We have relatively small numbers of young people out of education, but report on those at the starts and ends of the intervention. We also report on current attendance and have also seen a drop in attendance in our cohort in the recent years and since the start of the pandemic in particular. It will be very useful to have some comparator data in these areas.

#### Special educational needs and disabilities/additional learning needs

We currently report on young people with either an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or who receive Special Educational Needs Support (SEND Support) at school. We have seen increases in the numbers of children with additional educational needs, as high as almost 70% of the cohort in some quarters in 22/23 and on average around 50% of the cohort.

In terms of re-offending, we have identified that 31 out of the 41 young people that re-offended (live tracker data) had either an EHCP or SEND Support, so this is something that is high on our agenda.

#### Mental health care and emotional wellbeing

Currently we report on the numbers of young people who have an identified mental health need at the point of assessment. This is defined as a mental health need requiring further intervention – a referral on to a relevant service, or those already receiving support. On average around 45 – 55% of the cohort are identified as having mental health needs.

#### • Substance misuse

We already report on the numbers of young people who have an identified substance misuse issue at the point of assessment. This is defined as an issue requiring further intervention – a referral on to a relevant service, or those already receiving support. On average around 40% of the cohort are identified as having issues around substance misuse.

#### Out-of-court disposals

We report on all outcomes. Since the introduction of out of court panels in 2019 we have seen a continued shift in diverting young people via non substantive out of court disposals and this aspect of work now forms the bulk of the Youth Justice Service cohort, with 80 - 85% of interventions being out of court. In 22/23 we saw a very small increase in outcomes by around 4% in comparison to 21/22, so our work has been relatively consistent.

#### Links to wider services

Each quarter we provide a breakdown of young people who are currently or were previously Children in Care, on a Child Protection Plan and who have Child in Need status. This does vary from quarter to quarter. We also look at those open to early help currently and who have a previous early help assessment, those who have a 'Supporting Families' case flag and those who are have a current Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) referral. We also report on those with Child Criminal or Sexual Exploitation concerns.

#### Serious violence

Violent offences are our top committed offence by young people in North Tyneside. We track this and provide a breakdown each quarter for the Management Board. The majority of our offences are below the gravity score threshold to be considered as serious violence (only 4 out of 93 in 22/23 were a 5 or above). We complete a regular 'violent offences' report which looks in detail at the nature of the offences committed, who they are committed by and who the victims are to ensure we have a full understanding of this in the Borough.

#### Victims

We have little reporting around victims and welcome the new KPI to enable us to focus on this area. We have been without a Restorative Justice Worker for 2 years, but are currently recruiting into this role which will assist us to collate better data around this area of work.

## Local performance

In North Tyneside, there are no defined local performance targets apart from the National Key performance Indicators. There is however an expectation from the Management Board that there is a detailed performance report is compiled that reflects the children worked with. This enables the Board members to be sighted on any changes and emerging trends/issues as well as areas of strong performance. The report covers the following that covers the following areas:

- 1. Key Performance Indicators Summary
- 2. YJS Live Re-offending Tracker Data April 2021 to March 2022
- 3. Outcomes
- 4. Nature of Offending
- 5. January to March 2023 Cohort Data

- 6. Risk Register
- 7. National and Family Comparator Data
- 8. Divert from Charge
- 9. Turnground and Divert

Attached is the annual performance report for the period 2022 to 2023 which looks at the full annual out turn for the 3 Key performance indicators and the latest quarter wider performance. This outlines the range of information gather, analysed and presented to the Management Board.



## Children from groups which are over-represented

It is evident that within North Tyneside the ethnicity of children in predominately white British. The service has completed the disproportionality toolkit which identified that there were no concerns regarding the ethnic composition.

Historically the children in our care were a significant overrepresented group and whilst there is still children involved with the service, the use of out of court and diversionary programmes, we have seen a significant reduction in the overall number. The YJS seconded Police officers fully understand the complex needs of this group and as such are responsive to minimising the need for any formal intervention and look towards the care team to incorporate any work required. Obviously, there are occasions where this is not an option, but this is based upon gravity and risk led.

The OC2 return for the period 2022 to 2023 was 0.6% against a high of 23% seven years ago. This reduction is also a testament to the partnership practice the YJS has with colleagues in children's homes and the work they do to take a child cantered restorative approach.

The performance data evidences that children with SEND make up approximately 50 to 60% of the cohort within any quarter period. This has slowly increased over the last 5 years during which time the overall number of children the YJS has worked with has reduced. Again, further compounding the increasing complexities and needs of the children we work with.

The YJS has a seconded SALT therapist who has worked in the service for 15 years. They have an exceptional understanding of the complex needs of the children and as such, work flexibly to offer screening, assessment and intervention where required. She also provides regular training to staff and a training programme is delivered to all new staff including casual staff. This aspect of work is a golden thread throughout the service.

## Prevention / Diversion

The YJS has been delivering a successful Diversion programme for a period of 4 years. This followed extensive work across the Northumbria Police area and required to collaboration of six YJS's.

The framework was agreed and since that point all six have been delivering an Out of Court programme which enables children to be fully assessed and appropriate and proportionate disposals used to address risk but to also take a wider family approach.

The impact has been noticeable with a continued reduction in first time entrants which also includes a significant reduction of children in our care receiving substantive outcomes. In 2015 the O2 return 18% of children in pour care received a substantive outcome and in 2022/23, that figure was 0.6%. Notwithstanding the performance impact, the approach is the correct one, where appropriate to ensure our children do not have offences recorded that may impact on their future career opportunities.

The basis of the OOC programme requires a partnership approach whereby a comprehensive assessment is completed including self-assessments from both the child and parent.

This assessment is then discussed at a weekly panel meeting which has the following representation:

- YJS Team Leader
- YJS case manager
- Police
- Early Help

- Speech, Langue communication lead
- Clinical Psychologist
- Volunteer Panel Member

The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) in December secured funding ringfenced to YJS nationally to deliver a focused prevention programme called "Turnaround" this programme governance arrangements are via the YJS Management Board and as such the Board receive updates regarding the development.

The funding is secured until March 2025 and has attached a target number of children to work with. The basis of the programme is aligned to the Supporting Families programme, whereby the expectation is to work with the whole family to effect change. There is no specified approach so its up to local arrangements to identify the children. There is however strict inclusion and exclusion criteria, but the base line is the child is on the cusp of becoming involved in the Youth Justice system or involved in anti-social behaviour (ASB). The Northumbria Police area is one of 10 identified as having the highest rate of ASB and received further funding via the Prime Ministers Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan. This has increased the level of funding for North Tyneside but with an increased target number of children and families to work with

The YJS is in the latter stages of employing two Prevention workers who will deliver the programme for North Tyneside. As an interim arrangement, YJS case workers have been providing the service.

In addition to the MOJ funding, Northumbria Violence Reduction Unit have funded the Northumbria YJS's to deliver a "Divert" programme. Again, this is specific to those on the cusp of the formal system but there is no inclusion or exclusion criteria. This funding stream is also until 2025 and instead of potentially conflicting with Turnaround, in fact compliments perfectly as it means that the YJS has the means to offer a prevention programme to all children deemed or identified as at risk.

There will be quarterly reporting on both programmes and the YJS will review and assess the impact via performance reports to the Management Board.





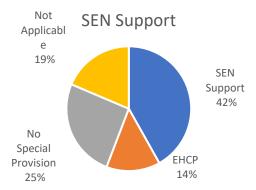
### Education

The YJS has yet to submit data for education as per new KPI requirement, but Education has been a key focus for the management board and as such, has contained within the quarterly performance reports comprehensive information.

The information has aided understanding as to the educational needs of the YJS cohort which includes:

- ETE Placement by type
- Attendance information including those receiving the required hours
- Analysis of NEET children
- SEN and EHCP
- Suspension/exclusions
- Disability
- Speech and Language

It is evident through the data set that the YJS has a high rate of children with SEN/EHCP and as such this is a core aspect of the 2023/24 delivery plan. This rate is also reflective of the authority as a whole.



The YJS has a connexions advisor attached to the service which enables an appropriate response to any changes to the child's circumstances and ensures preparation for those transitioning from formal education.

The addition of a Speech and Language therapist provides a direct assessment and or intervention to children as well as consultation for workers. This provides the evidence needed to advocate for appropriate resources/approaches within the school environment as well as providing the child with personal strategies.

## Restorative approaches and victims

Restorative approaches remain a central aspect of the work undertaken. There has been a void of a defined Restorative Justice / victim worker due to the existing postholder taking up the social work apprenticeship scheme, but this will be addressed and a replacement in post by September 2023. In absence of a dedicated worker, the tasks have been undertaken by the seconded police officers as well as the two YJS Team Leaders. All case workers have delivered community payback with children on a one-to-one basis or within small groups. Victim views are gathered and form a part of the Out of Court assessment and delivery plans with the same for court orders.

The service will be reporting all work with victims as part of the new KPI requirements.

## Serious violence and exploitation

The YJS Management Board commissioned an exception report in February 2023 on violent offences as violence is the predominant offence committed by children in North Tyneside and has been for the last 2 year period.

The Management Board needed to understand the nature of the offending as the categorisation of "violent" offences covers a wide range of behaviour and actions but does not necessarily reflect seriousness.

The report outlined in detail the offence gravity, characteristics, and demographics of the cohort. It gave the board reassurance that the level of serious youth violence is low however recognised that it had increased. However, there remains a small cohort of children who commit serious violent offences and the YJS holds monthly risk management meetings for those children identified as either high or very high risk of causing harm. The YJS currently has no children open to either MAPP level 2 or PDP.

The YJS is well sighed on the Serious Youth Violence Duty and has a key objective for 2023/24 activity to complete a child focused Strategic Needs Assessment to complement to regional one currently being completed by the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)

This will ensure that there is a clear understanding of the specific characteristics associated to children who are either involved in or at risk.

The YJS Manager sits on the VRU operational group representing the six Northumbria services. This ensures the voice of youth justice remains a focus within operational objectives.

In respect of children Released under investigation (RUI) the YJS been sighted on the number of children currently RUI for violent offences however, this has reduced since the reintroduction of police bail. The means to offer intervention for this group is now available and forms part of the Turnaround programme cohort.

In respect of exploitation, there is a small group of young people who are identified as being at risk of, or subject to extra-familial risks, often leading to involvement with Children's Services and sometimes with intervention from specialist services.

In response, we have developed and strengthened the service offered to young people at risk of exploitation with the introduction of the Future Steps service. The service focuses exclusively with matters of contextual safeguarding and exploitation. The service is closely linked to Keeping Families Connected and the Youth Justice Service, whilst utilising the experiences and knowledge of wider services of the council and agencies across the Borough.

Future Steps work intensively with children identified within the Missing, Slavery, Exploited and Trafficked procedures, (MSET) arrangements and via Chanel. This team also link in with adult services to address and meet the needs of those children transitioning and to also look at the wider picture regarding adults both exploiting and being exploited.

The Future Steps service consists of:

- Team Leader
- Youth Justice Worker

Future Steps went live on the 4<sup>th of</sup> October 2021 and is managed by the Youth Justice Service manager. The service works with about 12 children at any time children using a child centred approach. In conjunction to the direct work with children, the service has forged and

developed working practice with the regional exploitation hub, local safeguarding arrangement s and has established transition practices to adult social care.





## Detention in police custody

Across the Northumbria Police area, over the last 5 years there has been a concerted focus on children detained in police custody with the aim to drive down numbers and to only use detention where absolutely necessary.

18 months ago, Operation Harbinger was introduced by Northumbria Police, also known as the Golden hour. This practice requires the custody sergeant to contact the Local Authority to obtain any relevant information that may aid the period of detention of the child such as additional needs. This has proven beneficial in which some occasion, has resulted in the child being de arrested.

In conjunction to this, Northumbria Police produce a comprehensive performance report which outlines in detail all information regarding every child detained. The custody Chief Inspector is an active member of the Northumbria Heads of Service meetings whereby all custody issues and developments are discussed.

North Tyneside has in pace a robust Appropriate Adult service which is available 365 days per year and a full 24-hour service. This provision has been in place for 5 years and is managed by the YJS.

The YJS has a pool of 16 casual Appropriate Adults that cover all out of hours requests. The induction for all new Appropriate Adults has three strands to it, that being:

- Introduction to Youth Justice
- Communication session, delivered by the SALT worker.
- The role of the Appropriate adult, which is delivered along with the custody Inspector at the Police station including a visit to the custody suite to familiarise them with the environment.

There has been a drive to ensure that all children detained have their rights and entitlements read as soon as possible regardless of the proposed time of the PACE Interview. This requires the Appropriate Adult to often attend the police station on 2 occasions for the same child. This is deemed as best practice.

North Tyneside YJS is also contracted by Northumberland Count Council to deliver their Out of Hours service and has done so for a period of four years.

There is a regional Concord which is in the process of being reviewed.



## Use of Custody / Remand

The use of custody in North Tyneside has remained low over the last three years. In the period 2022/23, there were no custodial sentences and one remand to Youth Detention Accommodation (YDA).

Wetherby any remand to YJA or where a custodial sentence is issued, the YJS review every case to assess if any further work could have been undertaken or missed opportunities to reduce the likelihood of custody.

It is acknowledged that there are occasions where an unknow child commits a grave crime that ends up with a custodial sentence and for those cases, a local review is undertaken from a partnership perspective.

#### Constructive resettlement

The use of remand into Youth Detention Accommodation and Custodial sentences for children in North Tyneside is and has remained low for many years. This in part is a reflection of the low level of serious offending but also due to the relationship with court and trust that where proportionate, risk informed and proposed by the YJS, the use of community sentences/bail are\_high. This is reflected in the 2022 to 2023 data which indicates zero sentences.

It\_is rare that a child is detained for whom the YJS is not involved which ensure the service is sighted and well placed to understand the needs of the child and the factors associated to their offending and requirements for a successful resettlement plan. It is clear that resettlement starts at sentence/remand, and as such work commences at that point.

North Tyneside was part of HMIP Thematic inspection on Resettlement in 2019 which recognised the work of the service by including the case inspected as an example of good practice.

The service does not have a service specific Resettlement policy but did contribute to the regional North East Resettlement policy which is attached.



## Standards for children in the justice system

The service undertook a National Standards Audit in September 2022 that focused on standard 1 "Out of Court". The service included the HMIP inspection criteria to gain a broader understanding and assessment of the work carried out. This followed a self-assessment undertaken in May 2022 which had a specific focus on the Management Board responsibilities. The findings enabled the board to reflect on how they met the standards and what was required to improve.

The findings of the "Out of Court" audit were presented to the Management Board which given the results, gave assurance to the Board that the compliance and quality of the work being delivered was assessed overall as outstanding.

The findings were translated to the workers collectively and then on an individual basis reflecting again on what was working well and what needed improvement.

This area of work was identified as good within the HMIP Inspection 2021 and since that point, processes have been strengthened.

The work within the Out of Court arena is further outlined within the "Prevention / Diversion" section of this plan including the practice protocols in place.

All assessments undertaken by the YJS, those being both Out of Court and Statutory, are quality assured and dip sample cases are assessed against both National Standards and HMIP inspection criteria. Compliance against the Standards achieved by the service were clearly reflected in the outcome of HMIP Inspection in April 2022, as was the child first ethos.

The service will be completing the National Standard audit as required in September which focuses on standards 2, At Court.

## Workforce Development

All YJS staff receive monthly supervision and have a current IPR. It is through this process where specific workforce development needs and opportunities are identified to be undertaken over the 12 month period.

Additional to this, the analysis of the YJS cohort is considered in respect of emerging themes and new innovation which is then incorporated into the wider Children's Services workforce development delivery plan.

Available to all staff is a comprehensive and expanding online library and webinars of practice which all are invited to attend. The YJS also spot purchases webinars from specific providers to ensure current thinking and practice can be revised and updated.

All YJS staff have the offer of clinical supervision via the Clinical Psychologist attached to the service and encouraged to do so especially for those more demanding or stuck cases.

In respect of succession planning, staff are identified through their IPR as "aspiring managers" and are then offered the opportunity to undertake the ILM Leadership apprenticeship program.

Based upon analysis of cases of harmful sexual behaviour, the YJS commissioned AIM to deliver technology assisted HSB as this behaviour constituted the majority of all cases having been dealt with over the last 24 months.

The YJS will be commissioning specific training around risk identification and risk management planning during the 2023/24 period.

### Evidence-based practice and innovation

Through analysing the data sets and characteristics of the children and parents, The YJS is always seeking to be creative and responsive to changing needs and offence types.

A core aspect of any meaningful work is the learning styles of the children as well as being responsive to any identified additional needs.

To this end the YJS has a seconded senior Speech, Language therapist and a fulltime Highly Specialist Clinical Psychologist. This combination creates a robust approach not only to undertake assessments, but to deliver direct therapeutic work to the children but has also created a culture of consultation for core YJS case workers. Both aforementioned are involved in all risk management meetings as well as the Out of Court procedures.

A recent case where a ASBI was being sought on a child, both defence and prosecution sought the input of the SALT worker in respect of the wording of the requirements to ensure the child and parent could understand the terms of the ASBI and the implications if breached. The court adjourned for this to occur.

The impact that SALT brings to the work undertaken is nationally recognised however there is little research specific to the needs of those children in the YJS. On that basis, we have embarked on discussions with Northumbria University research team to look at what opportunities are available to undertake regional research. The terms of the research have yet to be agreed but in principle, this is a piece of work that would be extremely useful.

The Violence reduction unit education team, committed to delivering a virtual reality intervention to the YJS specifically in respect of knife crime. This intervention was well received by the children attending. This was done on a one to one basis with children who were assessed at risk of knife crime or proven. This due to capacity was withdrawn early 2023 and since that point, the YJS has started to seek a means to accessing and or purchasing the virtual reality headsets to continue this work stream.

The use of art in delivering work to children in North Tyneside is extremely well established and has been available via the Summer Arts programme and more recently the more flexible Arts programme which has enabled the service to deliver across the whole year.

## Service development plan

The service delivery plan has been devised based upon the analysis of performance, the characteristics of the children worked with and emerging/best practice.

Strategic Delivery Objectives 2023 - 2024

What do we want	What will we do	How will we know
Out of Court Process	• Embed the Prevention Service	Children on the cusp of becoming involved in
development to include a	(Turnaround and Divert) into the out of	offending/statutory services diverted in a timely
prevention programme	court process.	manner
	Dovetail the Prevention Service into the	• Improved outcomes for our Looked After
	wider Early Help offer	Children.
	Evaluation and Review of the impact of	Reduction in disproportionate groups being
	the Out of Court Diversion Process,	criminalised.
	alongside Regional Partners.	• A full evaluation undertaken to ensure a
		consistent and proportionate disposal is
		delivered both within North Tyneside and across
		the Northumbria Police area
Informed approach to	To produce with partners a local	Operational Strategic partnership response
Serious Youth Violence	Serious Youth Violence Strategy.	to violence in place.
	Represent the 6 Northumbria YJS's	Children are represented in strategic and
	on the Violence Reduction Unit,	operational regional responses to serious
	Serious Violence delivery group.	violence.
		Level of serious violence remains low

Improve access to Health	Produce a Health and Wellbeing	YJS Clinical Psychologist integrated into the
and Wellbeing	Strategy to ensure there is an	Broader offer re Health and Wellbeing to
	integrated health response for all	increase the YJS offer.
	children	
		Access to the HIVE Team offer around
		developmental trauma to support the impact
		of this on those involved with YJS.
		Access to the LINK Psychoeducation
		Programme to help young people
		understand why they respond the way they
		do and how to regulate emotions.
		Children receive the right intervention in a
		timely manner.
Develop specific services	We will undertake a full review of the	Clear and timely victim consultation procedures
for young victims of crime	practice relating to the young victims	in place reflective of age.
	following a specific report	Higher rate of "take" up by young victims.
	commissioned on the nature of violent	Specific age-appropriate support services and
	offending. This report identified a	pathways in place
	higher rate of young victims against	• Improved confidence in the impact RJ can
	adult victims.	provide.

Support young people		
with additional Needs /		
Education. Training and		
Employment		

- Challenge exclusionary barriers
- Support parents to advocate for best fit provision.
- All children screened re SALT and offered assessment where necessary
- YJS actively purses creative training and education opportunities
- Maintain high performance / low NEET figures
- All children's additional needs are identified and acted upon.

## Challenges, risks and issues

It needs to be acknowledged that the cost of living crisis is having a direct impact on the families and children we are working with. The inter relationship between low income and acquisitive crime is well documented so we need to be sighted on the potential for an increase in children coming to the attention of the youth justice system.

The landscape of youth justice is changing and has been over the last 3 years to which a high proportion of all work undertaken is now within the Out of Court arena which is absolutely the right direction of travel if the child first principle is applied.

Given the Out of Court disposals and panel process have been operational for four years, with the six YJS's across the Northumbria Police area all signing up to the agreed practice protocol.

Whilst consistency is important across the Northumbria area, it has become apparent that there are slight variations in the way the Out of Court process is operating and it is evident that there is variation in the initial decision making process undertaken by the seconded Police officers, then subsequently the collective agreed disposals within the panel meeting.

In addition, there has been no review of the arrangements or analysis regionally that the approach is the correct one having the impact expected. In North Tyneside we can confirm the Out of Court process has assisted in a further reduction in First Time Entrants and the rate of reoffending is low as per performance reports.

As with the Out of Court procedures, the Divert from Charge procedures have been operational for 2 years, again without any formal regional analysis or review as to the impact.

Therefore, it is agreed that a full partnership review will take place to consider both Out of Court and Divert from Charge procedures.

In North Tyneside there has been an increase in the number of children in our care. The impact of this creates pressure on appropriate placements for children. Whilst there is a wide range of internal provision, the Local Authority has to commission services which at times means that a child is placed out of borough. In the main when this occurs it is usually within the Northumbria area so means that we can continue direct case management. However, this does at times raise challenges in respect of accessing the necessary services. In addition, it is evident that are at times providers are not experienced or resilient enough to work with and care for some of our most complex and challenging children.

This is a national situation and one that locally we endeavour to be mindful of whenever decisions are being made.

# Sign off, submission and approval

Chair of YJS Board - name	Julie Firth
Signature	The
Date	30/06/2023

## Appendix 2: Budget Costs and Contributions 2023/24









november 2022.pdf the YJS for 2023.docx ethnicity 2023.docx 20budget%202023.do

PX Service Structure Staff composition of YJS by gender and North%20Tyneside%

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**Meeting:** Family Friendly Sub-committee

Date: 7 September 2023

Title: SEND Performance Data

**Author:** Democratic Services

Service: Governance

Wards

affected: All

#### 1. Purpose of Report

To introduce a dashboard of performance information relating to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

#### 2. Details

In discussing priorities for the Family Friendly work programme, members identified SEND as an important theme for the sub-committee to explore.

Officers have produced (attached) some SEND performance measures for the sub-committee to monitor. This data has been sent with advanced notice to members of the sub-committee so that questions could be identified and shared with officers in advance of the meeting and responses prepared for sharing.

#### 3. Appendices

SEND Performance Measures for Family Friendly Sub-committee.



## SEND Performance measures for Family Friendly Sub-Committee

Measure	June 2023		Analysis
Number with SEND Support Plans	4,021	3,251.0 3,389.0 3,417.0 3,637.0 3,637.0 3,744.0 3,785.0 3,683.0 3,8858.0 3,683.0 4,021.0 4,021.0	In January 2023 there were 4,021 children and young people in North Tyneside schools who have an SEN Support Plan; not all of these children and young people will live in North Tyneside. This is the highest number recorded, up 8% compared to January 2022. When we look at our total number of C&YP with an SEN Support Plan or EHCP, and compare the total between January 2022 (5,799) and January 2023 (6187), there are 6.3% more children and
Requests for EHCNA so far in 2023	245	Jan 18  Jan 20  Jan 22  Jan 22  Jan 23	young people with SEND.  In 2022, the Authority received 475 requests for an EHCNA. Compared to regional and national rates, the Authority is an outlier, receiving much higher rate of requests. In 2019, the national rate was 47 per 10,000 0-25 population, regional was 50 and in North Tyneside it was 70.3. In 2020, the national rate was 43.3, regional was 43.6 and in North Tyneside it was 60.8. In

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